



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE FIRE MARSHAL ANNOUNCES "ARRIVAL OF WORLD TRADE CENTER STEEL"

December 12, 2003 - State Fire Marshal V. J. Bella announced that a piece of I-beam from the world trade center has arrived in Louisiana to be used in conjunction with the Louisiana Fallen Firefighter's Memorial. This steel will be used in to memorialize the three hundred forty three New York City firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice. He explained that this occurred through the cooperation of New York Fire Marshal Jim Burns and the New York City Fire Department.

Two deputies, Bob Cate and Boyd Petty, traveled to New York City to receive the steel. Retired New York City Fire Department firefighter Lee Ielpi, who lost his son, Jonathan a New York City Fire Department firefighter in the World Trade Center terrorist attack was instrumental in obtaining the steel. Mr. Ielpi also escorted the Fire Marshal representatives to ground zero to show and explain the true impact of the attack and the lives that it changed.

Mr. Bella aslo explained that the Fallen Firefighter Memorial will be funded almost entirely by private and corporate contributions. The memorial will be located on the grounds of the State Fire Marshal's Office Building, currently undergoing construction on Independence Blvd. in Baton Rouge. The Memorial will consist of three main parts: "The Roll of Honor", listing all known firefighters who have perished in the line of duty from 1970 to the present, a bronze Firefighter Statue, and a chrome Fire Engine Bell, to be used in the dedication and memorial ceremonies. Additionally, there will be plaques within the memorial with words exemplifying the spirit of firefighting and the men and women who choose this honorable profession.

All donations toward construction of the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial will be gratefully accepted and can be made at any Louisiana branch of Whitney National Bank.